



Hawaii's governor leaves her mark on sub

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The Associated Press

NORTH KINGSTOWN -- The governor of Hawaii joined Rhode Island officials today for a keel-laying ceremony for the USS Hawaii submarine, the third ship in the Navy's newest class of nuclear attack submarines.

As the submarine's sponsor, Hawaiian Gov. Linda Lingle signed a piece of steel that will be incorporated into the submarine. Traditionally, the keel -- the first piece of a ship to be set in place when it's built -- is signed.

At today's event at the Electric Boat division of General Dynamics at Quonset Point, Lingle first chalked her two initials on the metal. Then, welder John Weiss used a torch to inscribe them permanently on its surface.

Among those attending were Governor Carcieri and U.S. Sens. Lincoln Chafee and Jack Reed of Rhode Island. Many wore traditional Hawaiian leis, or flower garlands, around their neck for the ceremony.

The Hawaii is a Virginia-class submarine and will be 377 feet long and weigh about 7,800 tons. Navy officials hope to commission it in October.

-- With reports from Journal photographer Mary Murphy



Journal photo / Mary Murphy

Electric Boat welder John Weiss of Providence welds the initials of Hawaii Gov. Linda Lingle into a piece of metal that will become part of the submarine Hawaii, during a ceremony today at the Quonset Point facility of Electric Boat.

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